

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel pending claims 1-11, and add new claims 12-20 as follows:

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1-11. (canceled)

12. (new) A system to present a virtual representation of at least one product for purchase by a user of the system, the system including:

a processor unit;

memory, coupled to said processor unit, storing an approximation of at least one characteristic of each said product, said characteristic selected from a group consisting of (a) an image of said product, (b) a sound of said product, (c) a texture of said product, (d) a mass of said product, (e) a smell of said product, (f) a temperature of said product, and (g) vibrations of said product;

for each said characteristic in said group, a simulation sub-system, functionally coupled to said memory, that simulates said characteristic for said user;

a monitor, functionally coupled to said processor unit, to display for viewing by said user a selection including each said product;

means, coupled to said processor unit, for enabling said user to cause said system to provide said user with a simulation of at least one said characteristic for a product of interest to said user; and

a sales unit, coupled to said processor unit, enabling said user to purchase said product.

13. (new) The system of claim 12, wherein said memory is network-coupled to said system.

14. (new) The system of claim 12, wherein said memory is coupled to said system via an Internet link.

15. (new) The system of claim 12, wherein simulation of at least two characteristics for said product are provided said user.

16. (new) The system of claim 12, wherein simulation of at least three characteristics for said product are provided said user.

17. (new) A method to facilitate user purchase of a product, the method comprising the following steps:

_____ (a) approximating at least one characteristic of each said product, said characteristic selected from a group consisting of (i) an image of said product, (ii) a sound of said product, (iii) a texture of said product, (iv) a mass of said product, (v) a smell of said product, (vi) a temperature of said product, and (vii) vibrations of said product;

_____ (b) for each said characteristic in said group, simulating said characteristic for said user;

_____ (c) displaying for viewing by said user a selection including each said product;

_____ (d) enabling said user to select a product of interest;

_____ (e) providing said user with a simulation of at least one said characteristic for said product of interest; and

_____ (f) enabling said user to purchase said product of interest.

_____ 18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein said method is carried out by a computer-based system.

_____ 19. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (a) includes storing in a computer-compatible memory each said approximation of at least one characteristic of each said product.

_____ 20. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein step (b) includes providing, for each said characteristic in said group, a simulation sub-system that simulates said characteristic for said user.

COMMENTS

Claims 1-11 were examined and rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over USP 6,170,014 to Darago, and in view of Official Notice.

Without prejudice or disclaimer, applicants have cancelled claims 1-11 and have added new claims 12-20. New claims 12-20 do not add new matter.

Claims 12-20 are pending.